

# Rock Creek Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

<http://www.nps.gov/rocr/>



## February 2016

### Schedule of Events

[www.nps.gov/rocr](http://www.nps.gov/rocr)

202-895-6070



It's February and in Washington, D.C. we are finally experiencing a cold winter compared to the start of the season. This month the nation celebrates the contributions of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to the struggle for civil rights for all. In honor of Black History Month we will have a special planetarium program, *Under African Skies*, and we will look at Meridian Hill Park during the civil rights era. We also will pay tribute to Elizabeth P. Thomas, an African American woman, who owned the land where Fort Stevens now stands.

Join us on our *Active Trails* hikes and walks.

For more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/kbbkbbk7>

### Daily

- **Perspectives of the Old Stone House** 2:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday at the Old Stone House The Old Stone House has a long and diverse history. Rangers will present insights on middle- class life in Georgetown, the evolution of a neighborhood, and the changing uses of an urban garden. **All ages.**



### Weekly Programs

#### Wednesdays

- **Young Planetarium** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Children are invited to explore the night sky and listen to star stories. **Ages 4 and older.**

#### Thursdays

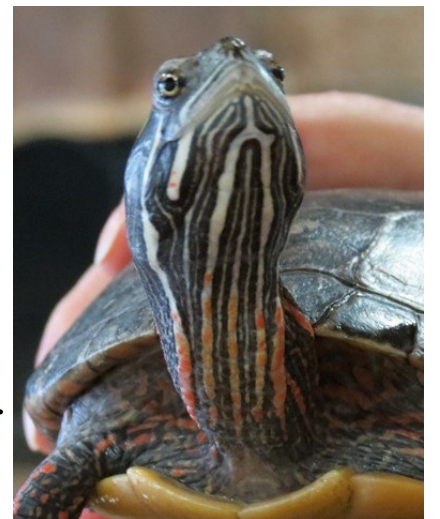
- **Ranger Reads** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Join us as a ranger picks a children's book from our collection and reads for the group. The book could be about seasons, animals, history or one of many other topics. **All ages.**

#### Fridays

- **Creature Feature** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Children of all ages are invited to learn about Rock Creek Park's wild critters during this interactive program featuring live turtles and snakes. **All ages.**

#### Saturdays

- **Under African Skies** 1:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Discover African star stories while exploring constellations of the southern hemisphere. Listen to *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, a folk song connected to escaped slaves from the 1850s, and trace its possible hidden meanings. **Ages 7 and older.**
- **Exploring the Universe** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Explore the solar system, Milky Way, and deep space objects in this high- tech planetarium program. **Ages 7 and older.**



## Sundays

- **Winter Night Sky** 1:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Discover tonight's brightest stars, planets and constellations and learn their stories in the Rock Creek Park planetarium. **Ages 5 and older.**
- **Exploring the Universe** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Explore the solar system, Milky Way, and deep space objects in this high- tech planetarium program. **Ages 7 and older.**

## Saturday, February 6

- **Civil War Roundtable** 9:30 a.m. at the Nature Center This month's discussion will pay tribute to Black History Month with a salute to Elizabeth Thomas, the Military Road School, and the United States Colored Troops (USCT). **Ages 10 and older.**

## Sunday, February 7

- **Fort Stevens: Three Centuries of changing Landscape** 2:00 p.m. at Fort Stevens Join us as we examine the changing landscape of Fort Stevens from the time of the Civil War to today. Learn how the area changed. From farm land during the Civil War to a densely packed urban area in the 21st century. The Civilian Conservation Corps, pictured on right, played a role in the development of the area. This program is part of our year- long centennial celebration of the National Park Service from 1916- 2016. **All ages.**



## Saturday, February 13

- **A Walk along Beach Drive: An Evolving Park** 10:00 a.m. at Peirce Mill Join for our centennial celebration on a two- mile round trip walk from Peirce Mill and along Beach Drive. We will explore how the park has changed, both with the growth of transportation and the need for outdoor recreation to a desire to protect the nature all around us. **All ages.** *Active Trails*
- **Buds** 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center Join our friends from Casey Trees for tree- focused story time interspersed with songs and a craft project. Each family will leave with a list of seasonally appropriate "scavenger hunt items" to track down while exploring the trails on their own after the program. **Ages 18 months to 4 years.** Please register with Casey Trees (not required) at <http://www.caseytrees.org/events/upcoming/>
- **A Tribute to Elizabeth Proctor Thomas** Noon at the Nature Center Join our friends from the Civil War Defenses of Washington as they present a tribute to the original property owner of Fort Stevens. This 90- minute program will look at the life of Mrs. Thomas, her role at Fort Stevens during the only Civil War battle in the nation's capital. Thomas is pictured on the right



## Sunday, February 14

- **A Heartfelt Fortification** 2:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Join a ranger on a one- mile round trip trek to one of the Civil War forts of Rock Creek Park. Learn about the only battle in Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. Also learn how soldiers reflected and acted on Valentine's Day during this highly emotional period! Harper's Weekly, a popular newspaper during the Civil War, is pictured on the right. **Ages 10 and older.** *Active Trails*

## Saturday, February 20

- **The Civil Rights Era and Meridian Hill Park** 10:00 a.m. at Meridian Hill Park Meridian Hill Park was created in the first half of the 20th century and by the second half of the century it was a stop during the Civil Rights Movement. Join us at the base of the cascading fountain as we explore Meridian Hill Park in the 1960s. **Ages 10 and older.**

## Sunday, February 21

- **Fort Stevens: Three Centuries of changing Landscape** 2:00 p.m. at Fort Stevens Join us as we examine the changing landscape of Fort Stevens from the time of the Civil War to today. Learn how the area changed. From farm land during the Civil War to a densely packed urban area in the 21st century. This program is part of our year- long centennial celebration of the National Park Service from 1916- 2016. All ages.

## Saturday, February 27

- **Walk along Beach Drive: An Evolving Park** 10:00 a.m. at Peirce Mill Join for our centennial celebration on a two- mile round trip walk from Peirce Mill and along Beach Drive. We will explore how the park has changed, both with the growth of transportation and the need for outdoor recreation to a desire to protect the nature all around us. All ages. *Active Trails.*



## Sunday, February 28

- **A Heartfelt Fortification** 2:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Join a ranger on a one- mile round trip trek to one of the Civil War forts of Rock Creek Park. Learn about the only battle in Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. Also learn how soldiers reflected and acted on Valentine's Day during this highly emotional period! Ages 10 and older. *Active Trails*



### Rock Creek Park Visitor Center Locations and Hours

**Nature Center & Planetarium** = 5200 Glover Road, NW. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Hiking trail maps and park information, plant and animal exhibits, and bookstore.

**Old Stone House** = 3051 M Street, NW. Open daily, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Early American home, self guided tours, and bookstore.

**Peirce Mill** = 2401 Tilden Street, NW. Open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. Check our website, [www.nps.gov/rocr](http://www.nps.gov/rocr), for times. 1820s grist mill — the last remaining on Rock Creek.

### Other Park Locations

**Fort Stevens** = 13th Street and Quackenbos Way (also Elizabeth P. Thomas Way) NW, Washington D.C.

**Meridian Hill Park** = Is bordered by 15th and 16th streets NW to the east and west, and Euclid and 'W' streets NW to the north and south. Programs meet at the water fountain in the park on the 'W' Street side.